

demonstrating that the cited subject matter from Suzuki actually was developed by the inventors themselves prior to Suzuki's effective filing date.

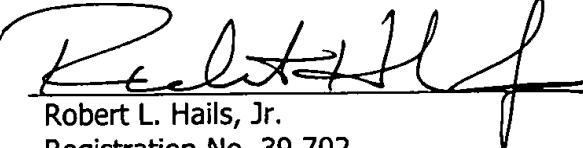
The attached declarations were filed in another of the inventors' patent applications. As explained in the declaration, the inventors developed and proposed a scalability syntax for use in the MPEG-4 standard. Exhibit A, at pp. 2-7, discloses the same subject matter as disclosed by Suzuki regarding scalability and its use in connection with video objects, video object layers and video object planes. The inventors' declarations demonstrate an invention date of at least July 8, 1996, which is earlier than Suzuki's September 5, 1997 priority date. Thus, even if the Examiner's analysis were correct, Suzuki is not prior art and the outstanding rejections must be withdrawn.

Under the Examiner's analysis, Suzuki is not prior art to the pending claims. Therefore, the anticipation and obviousness rejections to the claims must be withdrawn.

All claims are allowable. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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